Number of questions disallowed for the last 3 years.

163. Mr. K. M. Ibrahim—Will the Government be pleased to state the total number of disallowed questions for the last three years ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—Since the subject of the duties of the President, the Government did not consider it proper to call for details.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Sir, since the points are the same I suppose there is no necessity for supplementary questions. Is it not so, Sir?

President.—Yes. We will pass on to the next question.

164. Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—With reference to their letters C. 1-C- No. 582/08, dated May 3rd, 5th and the two ones of 9th May, will the Government be pleased to place on the table the word or words, regarding which the disallowance in each case was made?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—It is not clear the letters of which office the member refers to.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Was the member asked to make it clearer?

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—No.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—May I know the length of the notice the Secretary had, in regard to this question?

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—About two to three months.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Do not the Government think that for the efficient discharge of the work of this Council such matters should be referred back again to the members so that answers might be given to the members?

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—There is no provision in the Council Regulation to refer back questions for the purpose of rendering them clearer and more intelligible.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Is there anything prohibiting it?

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—Perhaps, not.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Is it not at least a matter of courtesy to do so?

Questions and resolutions that could not be dealt with in the last meeting—remedy for defect.

165. Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) the total number of questions answered in the last meeting;

(b) the number of (a) that could not be dealt with during question time;

(c) the number of outstanding resolutions of the last meeting;

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(d) how they intend to remove the defect, indicated above?

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—(a) 283.

(b) 71.

(c) 26.

(d) The above figures do not seem to indicate any defect. The defect, if any, can be removed by a judicious application of the time by the Hon'ble Members themselves. The Government do not intend doing anything in the matter.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—May I know, Sir, how a judicious application of time can remove the overcrowding of business?

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—It is left to the Hon'ble Members to proportionately allot the time and finish off all the business in the agenda in the time so allotted.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—My question is what the Government have done to counteract the overcrowding of business?

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—I do not think the Government can do anything in this matter. It is again left to the members to avoid any overcrowding.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—May I know, Sir, whether the opinion given by the Government here is that the defect can be removed by a judicious application of the time by the Hon'ble Members themselves? In the opinion of the Government is the question time being injudiciously applied by the Hon'ble Members?

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—Certainly not. According to the Government, there is no defect at all. Please see the answer. Mark the words, 'the defect, if any''

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—May I know, Sir, whether there are figures to indicate any defect at all?

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—From the point of view of the Government, these figures do not indicate any defect.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—(b) Have they anything to do with the printing and placing of questions to be answered during one hour?

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—I do not think so.

Application of Rule 8 (g) of the Council Rules for disallowing questions.

166. Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Will the Government be pleased to state the number of times Rule 8 (g) of the Council has been recommended as a ground of disallowance by those regarding whose previous answers the question was put, ever after 18th Meenam 1108?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—Government are not in a position to supply the information as it relates to the working of the Council Office under the orders of the President.

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